

# Environmental Partners Workshop

## September 2005: Summary Notes

This Fall, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) with the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) hosted the premier Workshop for Environmental Partners. This fact filled morning program covered many topics germane to the auto repair industry in Montgomery County. In case you could not attend there will be other gatherings in 2006 which DEP will widely publicize in advance. Until the next gathering of Environmental Partners here is a chance to catch up on what happened at the Fall Workshop.

After a brief **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** around the room, James A. Caldwell, Director of DEP, gave awards to four shops for adopting and implementing best management practices that lead to a cleaner and safer shop. The awardees were:

- Fletchers Service Center - for using solar panels to generate renewable energy, recycling water in the car wash process to conserve water, using aqueous-based parts washers, and employing a rain garden to reduce stormwater runoff and protect water quality.
- Merchant's Tire and Auto – for switching from solvent-based parts washers to aqueous parts washers, which eliminate large quantities of volatile organic compounds and help this region attain healthier air quality.
- Precision Auto – for switching from solvent- to aqueous-based parts washers, which eliminates large quantities of volatile organic compounds, helping our region attain healthier air quality.
- Winkler Automotive Service Center – for switching from solvent- to aqueous-based parts washers, through which large quantities of volatile organic compounds are eliminated, helping our region attain healthier air quality.



**MIKE HOYT** from Department of Public Works and Transportation also gave an introduction and welcomed the participants to this important workshop. He reported on how much his Fleet Division had done to save money and work greener at the same time. Through these initiatives, the County has reduced long-term liabilities, provided a safer work environment for employees, and eliminated storage and disposal costs.

**POLLUTION PREVENTION PRACTICES AT WORK** was presented by Rodney Martin, DPWT. He talked about his Division's progress to date and highlighted many ongoing programs that have been permanently adopted by Fleet Management Services. He talked about preventing, reducing and managing hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants in a way that saves money and resources. He addressed:

- source reduction (for example, discontinue the use of solvent sinks, or substitute "pump sprays" for aerosol can products (with estimated yearly savings of \$4,000 +/-year);
- substitution of non-toxic materials (for example using a non-toxic solvent parts washer which saves money, approximately \$150/month along with reduced operating costs, regulatory burden and reduce liability);
- fleet replacement to mitigate air pollution: the County has numerous vehicles and buses which run on compressed natural gas and ethanol; they also have many hybrid cars;
- environmental laws and regulations and the benefits of staying in compliance vs. civil and criminal penalties for non-compliance; helpful ways to stay in compliance include the following practices:
  - Maintain up-to-date chemical inventory list.



- Maintain current MSDSs for all products.
- Schedule regular training for yourself and staff.
- Develop contingency plans.
- Use proper handling and storage procedure.
- Properly manage waste streams.
- Change processes to eliminate the need for hazardous materials.
- Use spill kits and methods to contain incidental spills, including posting emergency information.
- Improved housekeeping (and reduced vehicle washing – DPWT now only washes buses three times per week instead of 6 times per week).

He summarized that the benefits of pollution prevention in the shop include all of the following factors: environmental, health, economic, regulatory, liability, and public image.

## HAZARDOUS WASTE AND POLLUTION PREVENTION COMPLIANCE

Pat Page, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) reported that auto repair facilities may

generate several types of waste that are regulated under federal or state laws. These include: scrap tires, used oil filters, scrap batteries, waste solvents, waste coolant, used oil, and other automotive fluids. If you have any questions about whether or not your waste is hazardous, please call MDE at 410-537-3345 or [www.mde.state.md.us](http://www.mde.state.md.us). He said that operators and employees of auto repair shops are required to know the hazardous or non-hazardous nature of their materials and wastes. Hazardous wastes are substances that contribute to an increase in human illness and mortality, and threaten the environment if not managed correctly. Hazardous wastes typically generated by auto repair shops can contain elevated levels of heavy metals such as cadmium, chromium, mercury, and lead. Hazardous wastes may also

include spent solvents and other shop clean up materials. If these wastes are allowed to contaminate absorbents, sanding dust, rags, oils or other materials, these contaminated materials also become hazardous wastes. He addressed hazardous waste storage container management, container labeling requirements, personnel training, how to handle lubricating oil, motor oil filters, used batteries, and what to do with used radiator coolant/antifreeze and excess gasoline. He said that when it comes to degreasing and parts cleaners, the use of aqueous parts cleansers (water-based) parts washing systems is preferred over organic solvent cleansers.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS USE CERTIFICATE** of the Local Emergency Planning Council (LEPC) Permits were addressed by Barbara Moore, Montgomery County Department of Homeland Security. She cited Executive Regulation (§17-03) and Fire Safety Code (§ 22-43) that both govern the Hazardous Materials Use Certificate required under LEPC. This applies to the storage, handling or use of any hazardous substance in excess of 5 gallons or 50 pounds of material. She covered:

1. What a hazardous substance is;
2. The categories/types of facilities (light, general, high use and SARA facilities);
3. How someone can file: (online at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/businesses](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/businesses) (click on licenses and permits); pick up an application at 255 Rockville Pike, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Rockville 20850; or by contacting her directly (240-777-2327 or 777-2400) to have it mailed;
4. Why it's important to file (community has a right-to-know, and responders need to know what they're responding to for safety reasons);
5. Repercussions for not filing (not being in compliance with relevant regulations cited above).

She handed out LEPC application packages for those who don't currently possess one and encouraged participants to contact her for any related information: Barbara Moore at 240-777-2327 or

[Barbara.moore@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Barbara.moore@montgomerycountymd.gov)



## SCRAP TIRE LICENSING

Steve Martin, Montgomery County DEP, addressed scrap tire licensing. He reported that Maryland has a Scrap Tire Recycling Act adopted by the Maryland General Assembly in 1991. A Scrap Tire Collection Facility License is required by all persons engaged in the storage, collection, transferring, hauling, recycling, or processing of scrap tires. Likewise, a Scrap Tire Haulers License is required by all persons who, as a part of a commercial business, transports scrap tires in the State to or from a scrap tire facility. Facilities need one of three types of collection facility licenses: general, secondary, or primary. He talked about license conditions and about Semi-Annual Scrap Tire Collection Facility Report due to MDE on February and August each year. For questions or more details on scrap tire regulations, contact MDE's Solid Waste Program, 1800 Washington Blvd, # 605 Baltimore, MD 21230, telephone 410-537-3315, 800-633-6101x3315 [www.mde.state.md.us](http://www.mde.state.md.us).

## WATER QUALITY PERMITS

Edward Gertler, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) gave a brief overview of stormwater management practices around shop premises. MDE is a state agency that carries out a federal law, the Clean Water Act and how this applies to individual shops. The Clean Water Act addresses the discharge of wastewater from the washing of vehicles, floors, or pavement. If you operate your place in sloppy manner then pollutants will be carried off by the next rain into the nearest stormdrain. Any washing of vehicles, equipment, or pavement outside contributes to a dirty discharge into the nearest stormwater drain. Point source discharges should be addressed within each shop. If this wastewater is directed to a storm drain (which flows directly to a stream) a NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) discharge permit is required. And that permit will set limits on how clean that wastewater must be. However, the most practical way to responsibly handle this wastewater is to connect the floor drain to a sanitary sewer. If wastewater is generated outdoors then devise a way to also collect and put it in a drain that is tied to a sanitary sewer. Another issue of concern is contamination of stormwater runoff from slopping maintenance of outdoor areas. The Clean Water Act does not routinely mandate the regulation of storm water from auto shops by means of the NPDES permit. However, it allows MDE to impose a permit on a case by case basis if there is a significant pollution problem. So keep your place clean inside and out.

Also called Best Management Practices or BMPs, other stormwater pollution prevention techniques include:

- Structural Methods (ponds, oil/grit separators, indoor car wash, berms) - physically control pollutants by managing, treating or diverting storm water;
- Non-structural Methods - prevent or minimize sources of possible pollutants:
  - routine inspections
  - preventive maintenance
  - good housekeeping
  - material handling and storage
  - spill prevention and response
  - sediment & erosion control
  - employee training.



## HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

The group moved into the Equipment Management and Operations Center (EMOC) transit shop to see first hand the microbial parts washer used for everyday parts washing in a shop that operates 24 hours a day for transit and heavy equipment vehicles. Many participants were impressed with the microbial parts washer. Shop owners saw first-hand a part being washed in the microbial washer. The parts washer that the county owns contains microbes in a reservoir that eats away at the oil and grease which means this microbial parts washer generates no waste! Bioremediation is the



process by which the microbes turn harmful materials into non-toxic substances.

More about the DPWT parts washer unit:

- It is a self-cleaning system which cleans and recycles all system fluids on the spot; it eliminates the generation of liquid hazardous wastes.
- It eliminates petrochemical waste storage, handling, and transportation problems.
- Transported in microbe impregnated mat traps, the nonpathogenic, hydrocarbon busting microbes eat oil and grease.
- It has a recirculating pump, a pump control timer, a heavy duty sink, a flow-through brush, and a flexible nozzle.

Bioremediation is a naturally powerful solution to reduce waste disposal costs. In addition to direct dollar savings, there are other savings, such as reduced operating costs, regulatory burden, and reduce liability. Other BMPs that DPWT has initiated includes substituting aerosol with refillable pumps to realize a savings of \$2.20 per pound, with an estimated yearly savings of \$4,500. They maintain a dry shop and use a self-closing, fireproof metal waste can for soiled shop rags.

### **THE POLLUTION PREVENTION CONNECTION IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S FACILITIES**

Montgomery County recognizes that local governments are in the unique position of being both regulated and regulators. Many of the industrial-type operations inherent in public service are subject to state and federal environmental law. For this reason, a formal Pollution Prevention Program for County-owned facilities was established in September 1999. The goal is to systematically lessen the impact of county operations on the environment, improve the County's compliance with regulations, and share environmental solutions among agencies and other interest groups. For more information about the County's Pollution Prevention Program contact Ligia Moss, Department of Environmental Protection, tel. 240-777-7756, or email [ligia.moss@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ligia.moss@montgomerycountymd.gov).



### **VENDORS OF MICROBIAL PARTS WASHERS**

(Montgomery County does not endorse any vendor)

#### **Atec Trans-Tool Cleaning Systems**

110 Connelly  
San Antonio, TX 78203  
800-531-5978  
email: [sales@atec-trans-tool.com](mailto:sales@atec-trans-tool.com)  
<http://www.atec-trans-tool.com/>

#### **ChemFree Corporation**

8 Mecca Way  
Norcross, GA 30093  
770-564-5580 800-521-7182  
[www.chemfree.com](http://www.chemfree.com)

**Graymills Corporation**

3705 N. Lincoln Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60613  
888-GRAYMIL  
[www.graymills.com](http://www.graymills.com)

**KleenTec Inc.**

1212 Sykes Street  
Albert Lea, MN 56007  
800-435-5336  
[www.kleentec.com](http://www.kleentec.com)

**NAPA Auto Parts**

831 Russell Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879  
301-948-8990

**Renegade**

2320 Zinga Drive  
Reedsburg, WI 53959  
800-774-7900  
<http://www.renegadepartswashers.com/>